

back wall and two side walls, and are generally rectangular in a vertical cross-section and comprise an opening in the top of the container through which the items will be placed into the container and an opening in the bottom of the container through which the items will be removed after being dispensed through the container by gravity;

- b. Providing a plurality of racks on which the plurality of containers will be aligned in a uniform fashion; and
- c. Arranging the plurality of containers on the plurality of racks so as to minimize the area required to contain the plurality of containers on the plurality of racks.

REMARKS

The examiner rejected independent Claims 1,4,7 and 10 and objected to dependent (Claims 2,3,5,6,8,9,11 and 12 as being dependent on rejected base Claims). Applicant has amended claims 1,4,7, and 10.

The examiner rejected Claims 1,4,7, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) in light U.S. Patent 2,104,523 to Lichtenstein. Lichtenstein discloses a package dispensing device for retail use. The containers 14 in Lichtenstein are rectangular in shape but are only 3 sided. The back side of the container 14 in Lichtenstein is created when the tabs 25 are connected to the Lichtenstein backing panel 10. The backing panel 10 itself forms the back wall for the container 14.

Applicant has amended Claims 1,4,7, and 10 to provide that the containers themselves are formed with four walls. Unlike Lichtenstien, applicants containers are

formed completely independent of any other item. Thus, the plurality of containers of the present invention can be arranged in various ways to utilize a minimum amount of space without the constraint in Lichtenstein of forming part of the container with the backing panel. This constraint to the arrangement of a plurality of containers is not presented by Applicant's invention since the containers are independent of the racks. Further, Lichtenstein does not disclose the type of racks contemplated in the present application. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 1,4,7, and 10 are not obvious in light of Lichtenstein and applicant respectfully requests that the examiner promptly allow all pending claims in the present application.

A clean copy of the amended Claims 1,4,7, and 10 is attached hereto.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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